

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-09

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

1. PSYCHOLOGICAL: LOCKHEED SCANDAL ALMOST TOTALLY OVERWHELMED ALL OTHER NEWS HERE IN PAST WEEK AND WAS PRIME TOPIC OF COMMENT AND DISCUSSION. TWO-DAY DIET QUESTIONING OF WITNESSES, TELEVISED LIVE FOR HOURS DURING DAYTIME (WITH TOKYO-AREA AUDIENCE RATING OF 25 PERCENT NEAR MID-DAY) AND CAPSULIZED AT LENGTH ON EVENING TV NEWS PROGRAMS, ONLY INTENSIFIED PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF DISGUST WHEN KEY WITNESSES CONSISTENTLY STONEWALLED INTERROGATIONS. MEDIA CONTINUE TO SEE CASE TESTING HEALTH OF JAPAN'S PARLIAMENTARY POLITICS, MIKI'S LEADERSHIP AND EVEN CHARACTER OF DEMOCRACY IN JAPAN. ALL COMMENT IS URGING THOROUGH INVESTIGATIONS. MAIN INTEREST NOW IS WHETHER U.S. WILL DROP OTHER SHOE BY GIVING NAMES OF OFFICIALS OR POLITICANS GETTING LOCKHEED PAYOFFS.

2. PROGRAM

A. HABIB ED: 2/18 TOKYO AC PROGRAM FEATURING ELECTRONIC DIALOGUE WITH ASST SECY HABIB WAS ATTENDED BY 35 INVITEES FROM MEDIA, GOVERNMENT AND UNIVERSITIES THROUGHOUT JAPAN--
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ALL PRIMARY AUDIENCE. AMBASSADOR JAMES HODGSON LED DISCUSSION

FOLLOWING ED. CO-MODERATORS WERE INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPECIALISTS MICHIO ROYAMA OF SOPHIA U. AND KEI WAKAIZUMI OF KYOTO INDUSTRIAL UNIV. PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSED HIGH SATISFACTION WITH PROGRAM, AND ESPECIALLY WITH WAY HABIB HANDLED QUESTIONS. WHEN LOCKHEED CASE INEVITABLY CAME UP IN ED, HABIB FORTHRIGHTLY GAVE USG POSITION AND SAID USG WOULD NOT COVER UP FOR JAPANESE NAMED. THIS PART OF ED WAS PROMINENTLY REPORTED ON LATE NHK-TV NETWORK NEWS, PROMINENTLY FRONT-PAGED IN DAILY "SANKEI" AND GIVE PAGE-3 TREATMENT BY DAILY "MAINICHI."

B. ECONOMIST RINFRET: CONSULTING ECONOMIST PIERRE RINFRET CONCLUDED JAPAN PROGRAM WITH NAGOYA AC-ARRANGED PROGRAM CO-SPONSORED WITH JAPAN SOCIETY FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMICS. TWELVE SOCIETY MEMBERS (EIGHT ARS) TOOK PART. RINFRET AGAIN WAS EXCELLENT--"FIRST-RATE ECONOMIST AND SHOWMAN, WITH BREATHTAKING COMMAND OF FACTS," OUR BPAO REPORTED. EVEN WHEN ONE ATTENDEE THREATENED TO MONOPOLIZE Q&A SESSION WITH IRRELEVANT COMMENT AND QUESTIONS, RINFRET MANAGED TO TURN THESE INTO MEANINGFUL POINTS. USIS-ARRANGED INTERVIEW WITH RINFRET ON U.S. ECONOMIC TRENDS APPEARED IN 2/14 DAILY NIHON KEIZAI.

C. ASP STAUFFER: THOMAS STAUFFER, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE OF HARVARD'S MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE, SPOKE AT OSAKA AC TO 50 PERSONS, PRIMARILY BUSINESSMEN BUT INCLUDING SOME MEDIA AND ACADEMICIANS, ON "ENERGY ISSUES: IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. AND JAPAN." USIA-PROVIDED BACKGROUND HAD LED US TO EXPECT ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, BUT STAUFFER DEALT PRIMARILY WITH POLITICS OF MID-EAST OIL. FINE PRESENTATION WOULD HAVE HAD HEIGHTENED IMPACT IF WE HAD HAD ADVANCE NOTES OR TALKING POINTS TO BETTER GUIDE OUR SELECTION OF MODERATOR AND AUDIENCE.

D. PETER SWIERS: STATE DEPT. POLICY OFFICER PETER B. SWIERS, IN JAPAN FOR US-JAPAN PLANNING TALKS, SPOKE WITH TEN ACADEMICIANS AT KYOTO AC ON US-OSIVET RELATIONS AND EFFECTS ON JAPAN AND ASIA. NOTED YOUNG KYOTO UNIV. PROFESSOR YANO MODERATED AND KYOTO INDUSTRIAL UNIVESITY PROFESSOR URUSHIYAMA WAS DISCUSANT. TREATING DETENTE, SNO-SOVIET RELATIONS, SALT AND ANGOLA, SWIERS DEVELOPED EXCELLENT AND QUITE CONCRETE DIALOGUE WHICH WAS VERY USEFUL IN CLARIFYING U.S. POLICY.

3. MEDIA ATTENTION:

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A. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "MAINICHI DAILY NEWS," "JAPAN TIMES" AND PACIFIC STARTS AND STRIPES CARRIED REPORTS 2/13 OF AMBASSADOR HODGSON SPEECH AT JAPAN NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE ON SUBJECT OF US-JAPAN SECURITY RELATIONS.

B. 2/14 DAILY ASAHI BIOSKETCH COLUMN "HITO" FEATURED USIA'S FRANK BABA, WHO WAS VISITING JAPAN TO RECEIVE BROADCAST CULTURE FOUNDATIN'S INDIVIDUAL AWARD FOR HIS OUTSTANDING WORK WITH JAPANESE MEDIA TEAMS WHILE SERVING IN AGENCY'S

FOREIGN PRESS CENTER, AND FOR EARLIER OCCUPATION-ERA
CONTRIBUTIONS TO MODERANIZATION OF JAPANESE BROADCASTING.
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